



## CONQUER OR BE CONQUERED: KINGDOM OF MERINA 1797

Conquer or Get Conquered: Kingdom of Merina 1797 is a committee centered around the reign of King Andrianampoinimerina (a long name that translates to “the king who is not like the stupid”). As his name suggests, King Andrianampoinimerina made great innovations and reforms attributing to the success of the kingdom, ultimately uniting nearly the entire island as one people. The kingdom of which he grew his family and support of followers became one with a dynamic legal system, more advanced farming, and a strict caste system. While all might seem well on the surface, turmoil brews as coastal nations with economic high ground resist unification, companions with ulterior motives crave the spotlight, and family members with a superiority complex think they can rule the kingdom themselves. Delegates will have the opportunity to oversee the managing of several regions of Madagascar, including the twelve sacred hills of Imerina, as well as Antananarivo and Ambohidratrimo, while maintaining the support of their king, our chair, Andrianampoinimerina.

### BACKGROUND GUIDE

#### KARINN SYTSMA

##### CHAIR

Karinn Sytsma (she/her/hers) is a second year in the College, studying Biology and Computer Science. She hails from lovely Washington—no, not DC, the real Washington, the state, and is one of those weird people who actually prefers the cold to heat. When she’s not losing her mind over problem sets and labs, Karinn enjoys playing ice hockey on the UChicago women’s team, where she’s still learning how to use hockey skates, and beating her friends in board games on a weekly basis (although she’s still banned from playing Monopoly after an awful 10 hour game). Karinn is incredibly excited to chair her first committee with Conquer or Get Conquered: Kingdom of Merina 1797! In the past, she was an Assistant Chair with Reese for ChoMUN XXIII on Screw It, Let’s Do It: Virgin Group 2020, and participates in MUNUC, UChicago’s high school conference, as well. She can’t wait to run this committee and meet you all! If you have any questions, please let her know at [ksytsma@uchicago.edu](mailto:ksytsma@uchicago.edu).

#### COULTER JOHNSTON

##### CRISIS DIRECTOR

Coulter (he/him/his) is a third year in the College, studying Biology and Computational Neuroscience in the Pre-Med track, coming from Geneva, Switzerland. Outside of ChoMUN, Coulter competes with the University of Chicago Rugby team, which tends to take up weekends. Other than that, he works on an on-campus ecology and evolution lab, studying disease dynamics in moth caterpillars of Northern Michigan. Coulter is very excited to return to ChoMUN XXIII, to experience his first time as a Crisis Director. In the past, Coulter has participated in ChoMUN XXI as an assistant chair to Putin’s Cabinet committee, and in ChoMUN XXII as chair to the Polish Second Republic 1918-1921. Coulter will be co-crisis directing with Reese this year at ChoMUN XXIII. Any questions or inquiries can be sent to Coulter at [cbjohnston@uchicago.edu](mailto:cbjohnston@uchicago.edu)

#### REESE KLEMM

##### CRISIS DIRECTOR

Reese Klemm (she/her/hers) is a second year in the College and currently planning to major in Economics and minor in French. If she were to drive to school everyday, her commute would total forty minutes altogether because she lives on the North Side of Chicago and will make that well-known to everyone she meets. When she isn’t researching olden days Madagascar in her free time, Reese is very involved on campus, taking part in the Thompson House Cake Business, and last year, was Assistant Director for UChicago’s spring musical, The Old Man and The Old Moon. Otherwise, she is involved in Tech Savvy Friends, a club that teaches elderly people how to search the internet (for fire memes) and take selfies #yolo. Reese is especially excited to be leading a Chomun committee in the beautiful downtown Chicago (which even she acknowledges is as awesome as Wrigleyville) and cannot wait to see everyone there with her. Reese was an Assistant Chair during ChoMUN XXIII on Screw It, Let’s Do It: Virgin Group 2020, and will be Crisis Directing along with Coulter this coming ChoMUN. Any questions to Reese can be sent to [klemm@uchicago.edu](mailto:klemm@uchicago.edu)

#### SECRETARIAT OVERSIGHT:

RITIK SHAH, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL